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DE RUEHIN #2077 2530608
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 100608Z SEP 07
FM AIT TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6729
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8884
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 9055
RUEHC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS TAIPEI 002077

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STATE PASS EEB/TPP/ABT PAUL SAXTON;
COMMERCE FOR 4431/ITA/MAC/AP/OPB/TAIWAN/MCHOI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ECON ETRD TBIO TW
SUBJECT: IMPORT SAFETY DIALOGUE

REF: A. STATE 125667

1B. STATE 114788

Econoff delivered reftel import safety demarche on August 31 to Director General Chen Jay-san of the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Econoff emphasized that science-based standards and best practices should be used as the guidelines to determine product safety. Econoff also pointed out that the working group's activities were not aimed at protecting U.S. producers but rather to improve procedures for ensuring the safety of imported products. Chen said that most of the import problems that Taiwan has experienced have to do with products from the PRC, followed by imports from Southeast Asia. Toys from the PRC, for example, account for 70-80 percent of the Taiwan market. BSMI regularly collects information on flawed products from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, press reports and its representatives stationed overseas. Chen was very receptive to the idea of an import safety working group and was willing to share data on import safety. He said that the Executive Yuan, which has oversight over the BSMI, has set up a website dedicated to import safety and welcomed data sharing with other countries. The website is at <http://www.unsafeimports.nat.gov.tw>.

WANG